



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Inclosed are letters from Representatives James L. Slayden and John N. Garner, of Texas, written with the same end in view. They have supplemented their letters by personal interviews.

You are directed to report upon the necessity of some such action on the part of the Mexican Government and to indicate clearly what measures it should be asked to enforce and what reciprocal measures should be enforced on the United States side of the border.

The report of Passed Assistant Surgeon von Ezdorf upon the infected Mexican cities is transmitted for your information. The measures which the Mexican Government may be asked to enforce should be practical and no greater than might reasonably be expected. You are informed that it is my intention to visit the City of Mexico within a short time for the purpose of bringing this matter before the Mexican Government, and your report will be a guide to me in my representations.

Respectfully,

WALTER WYMAN,
Surgeon-General.

Report of the Sanitary Board.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND
MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, December 30, 1903.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH AND MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: Pursuant to your directions, dated December 29, 1903, to convene a meeting of the sanitary board of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service to formulate general plans of sanitation, to be prosecuted in both the Republic of Mexico and in the United States, with a view to the adoption of measures for the eradication of the infection of yellow fever in places infected with the disease both in Mexico and the United States, the following report is respectfully submitted.

The board recommends, as a basis for the precautions to be taken, those measures recommended in the article entitled "Prophylaxis against yellow fever," by Dr. John Guiteras, published in the Public Health Reports of July 31, 1903 (copy inclosed), with the following additions and alterations. Some of these additions and recommendations are embodied in the article by yourself entitled "A plan for international agreement of the American Republics for the sanitation of certain seacoast cities," published as a reprint of the Public Health Reports of October 11, 1901. Copy also inclosed.

The board, observing its instructions, considers that the measures recommended are practical and no greater than may be enforced with the least possible delay in either country. These measures demand immediate adoption and prosecution in order to avert the danger of a recrudescence of the disease during the coming spring in the cities recently infected. It is not necessary to emphasize that such a recrudescence would cause serious embarrassment to commerce, with all of its monetary loss and attendant evils.

The measures recommended are as follows:

1. The prompt report of all cases of suspicious fever to the local health authorities where they occur, the immediate screening of the patient, and the destruction of mosquitoes on the premises, pending the making

of the diagnosis. The occurrence of the first authentic cases of yellow fever in either republic should be immediately reported by wire to the other republic.

2. Vigorous methods of post epidemic fumigation with sulphur to be inaugurated without delay, in both republics, in places where infection has occurred during the latter part of the past year.

3. Efficient sanitary measures in towns and places which have been infected with yellow fever during the past year, as follows: Burning of brush, drainage of all stagnant water, oiling of all stagnant water drainage of which is impracticable, all water containers to be treated at least once, and oftener if necessary, with a thin film of refined oil deposited upon their surfaces, and to be tightly screened and to be constantly covered to prevent access of mosquitoes, a penalty to be imposed for the absence of said screens and covers.

4. The oiling, screens, and covers provided for in the foregoing paragraph shall be at the expense of the tenants or owners, but in the case of tenants who are unable to comply with said provisions, the municipality shall provide the same. Sanitary inspection shall be made from time to time to enforce this provision, and a fine imposed for noncompliance.

5. In order that these measures may receive due credit in both countries, it should be agreed that agents of the Superior Board of Health of Mexico will be received in any town or place in the United States where yellow fever has prevailed to note the enforcement of the above provisions and to invite the attention of the sanitary authorities to any lapse in the same; any fault in administration or in the completeness of measures to be undertaken to be corrected by the proper sanitary authorities of the United States. In like manner officers of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, detailed for duty in the offices of the United States consulates in any Mexican city, to be granted every facility for observation as to the enforcement of the same measures in cities and towns of Mexico that have been infected with yellow fever.

6. This board is of the opinion, and so recommends, that should the occurrence of yellow fever render the establishment of border quarantine necessary, the period of detention, based upon the incubation of the disease, should not exceed six days, and that the disinfection of personal effects, mails, and freights, not harboring mosquitoes, should not be required.

In compliance with the instructions, Passed Asst. Surg. R. H. von Ezdorf, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, was invited and was present at the meetings of the board, and use was made by the board of his knowledge of the situation.

A copy of the order convening the board and the inclosures accompanying the original thereof are herewith returned.

Respectfully,

A. H. GLENNAN, *Chairman,*
Assistant Surgeon-General.

W. J. PETTUS,
Assistant Surgeon-General.

GEORGE T. VAUGHAN,
Assistant Surgeon-General.

H. D. GEDDINGS, *Recorder,*
Assistant Surgeon-General.

SUPERIOR BOARD OF HEALTH,
Mexico City, Mexico, January 13, 1904.

Dr. WALTER WYMAN,

*Surgeon-General of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service
of the United States, City.*

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of your favor of yesterday's date, in which you refer to the different conferences that we have had and in which we have discussed the subject of yellow fever in the United States and Mexico, which latter inclosed a copy of the orders issued on the 29th of December last for convening a meeting of the sanitary board of the Public Health Department and Marine-Hospital Service of the United States, and also stating the reasons that prompted you to communicate this matter to myself. Your letter also inclosed the report presented by that board, in which it recommends the measures that ought to be adopted by both republics, and you ask me to give all these documents the careful consideration which they merit and report to you on the measure that will be adopted by the superior board of health of Mexico in the premises.

In answer to the above I now beg to state as follows:

The interest which was aroused by the invasion of the State of Texas by yellow fever, in the public officers of that State, its representatives in Congress, the press of the United States, and the Department which you so worthily direct, has suggested the idea that action should be taken to prevent the reappearance of the disease, both in the southern part of the United States as well as in the north of the Mexican Republic. This reciprocal interest in the two nations has decided you to come to this city in order to explain your ideas on the subject, and inform yourself of those which are held in Mexico.

The wide views which you have always shown in the study of sanitary matters is again manifested in the series of orders that you have issued for obtaining information from the officers of your Department who are best versed on the question of yellow fever. These measures not only reveal the solicitude with which you carry out your duties, but also the desire that the Mexican Republic should cooperate in the same sense.

The Mexican Republic, for its part, has been taking active and earnest steps to exterminate yellow fever from its territory, and more especially when, during last summer, that disease spread in an epidemic form to several cities of the Gulf States and to some interior cities as well, such as in the States of Nuevo Leon and San Luis Potosi. It would make this letter too long for me to enter into a relation of all the labors undertaken by the Federal Government for the extinguishing of the epidemic of yellow fever, and I therefore confine myself to stating that the Executive of the Union, acting through the superior board of health, took action in all of the States except one, and was fortunately able to detain the epidemic, which had spread over a larger area than that reached on previous occasions.

But in order to correspond to your elevated ideas, I will now proceed to explain the plan proposed by my Government in order to utilize the entire period between this and the approaching summer, when yellow fever makes its appearance, and thus avoid its propagation. You will find all the ideas of the superior board of health of Mexico on this matter, given in a condensed form, in a proposed plan that this body has presented to the department of the interior, asking

that those States in which yellow fever prevails in an endemic form, and in which it has spread as an epidemic, to consent that the supreme board of health undertake the direction of the campaign, so as to obtain uniformity of action on the part of the sanitary authorities, and direct the proper disbursement of the sum of \$100,000 which the Chamber of Deputies granted to the Federal executive for the purposes of this campaign.

In the "plan of campaign" above mentioned, we have a clear statement of the doctrine of the transmission of yellow fever by means of the mosquito of the genus *Stegomyia fasciata*, and the means best adapted for the isolation of persons attacked by the disease or suspected of being so from the first day of its appearance are also therein clearly set forth. It also shows the method to be employed in the disinfection of the houses that are occupied by these patients, and in which it is to be presumed that infected mosquitoes will be found; the practical means for destroying the larvæ of the mosquito of the genus above mentioned; the way to prevent the disease from being carried from an infected city to another which is healthy, and the steps to be taken for avoiding the spread of the epidemic after the appearance of the first case in a city that has hitherto not been infected. I take pleasure in inclosing with this letter a copy in Spanish of the above plan of campaign with its translation in English.

The report which the sanitary board of the Public Health Department and Marine-Hospital Service of the United States presented to yourself on the 30th of December last proposes a series of measures that are intended to be put in practice as soon as possible in the two republics for the purpose of preventing the reappearance of yellow fever in the two countries during the approaching summer. These measures, based on the scientific principles which have governed the superior board of health of Mexico, ought to be identical, and really are so, as can be ascertained by a comparison of these documents. Those reports ask that both nations be bound to declare any new case of yellow fever that may present itself in any locality of their respective territories. This declaration has been made by the superior board of health of Mexico ever since the 17th of December, 1902, in compliance with one of the resolutions that were adopted in the International Sanitary Convention which met in Washington during that month. As you will see, the Mexican Republic is already in the habit of fulfilling that obligation.

The second recommendation advocates the rigorous disinfection by sulphur of every dwelling which has been used by a yellow-fever patient. This precaution has been observed in Mexico ever since the commencement of the epidemic of the past year, and will be continued with even more rigor and greater perfection in the new campaign which we are now undertaking, as you will see from the document I inclose with this letter. In that document you will find a series of measures proposed similar to those that are recommended by the sanitary board of the Public Health Department of the United States, with the only difference that it says nothing as to the burning of the brush, as we were not aware that the mosquitoes hide there during the period of hibernation, but this idea is now accepted. The same thing can be said of the other proposals of the sanitary board above mentioned.

From the above you will clearly understand that the action recom-

mended by your Department for preventing the reappearance of yellow fever is very similar to that which has been put in practice for some time past by the Government of Mexico.

In the numerous conferences that we have had I have explained to you the manner to render these measures more practical and efficacious, but I will now only remind you of those which have been put in practice in Vera Cruz since the 1st of September of last year. Vera Cruz is the oldest and most permanent focus of endemia in the Mexican Republic. All the epidemics have found their origin in this place, and very seldom in the northern districts of the peninsula of Yucatan, and even in the case of the last two epidemics in the port of Tampico they were started in Vera Cruz, for which reason this is the place that demands our principal attention.

The town has been divided into four districts, each of which is placed under the charge of an experienced physician, and each of these has sanitary agents of the first class placed under his orders. Subordinate to these are other agents of the second class, and a certain number of servants. The inspector keeps a register in which they enter the full name of every nonimmune who resides in Vera Cruz, the place whence he comes, the time he has been in the port, and the house in which he lives. These persons are visited daily in order to catch the first symptom of any fever. As soon as a nonimmune is found to have a high temperature he is isolated on suspicion in the civil and military hospital of the city, and in the case of healthy persons, in a special hospital that has been provided by the superior board of health of Mexico for those who are suspected or known to have yellow fever. These patients are isolated from the moment the disease commences, whatever may be their sex, social position, or nationality, and you will therefore see that with such a system it is impossible for yellow fever to be reproduced in an epidemic form in the port of Vera Cruz.

The sanitary staff above referred to also charges itself with the disinfection, by means of sulphur, of the houses in which yellow-fever patients have been attended, as well as the neighboring houses, for fear of any infected mosquitoes having remained therein. These employees also see that the garbage is taken out of the houses, the swamps drained, the drinking-water reservoirs kept clean, and that they are covered in such a way as to prevent the mosquitoes depositing their eggs in them, as well as that petroleum be spread over all bodies of water that can not be covered. By following these methods the epidemic which appeared in Vera Cruz was controlled, and it will be possible to avoid the reappearance of the epidemic during the coming summer.

During the coming week a sanitary board will commence its duties, composed of an experienced physician in this class of work and four first-class sanitary agents, such as I have above referred to. This staff will visit every one of those places that were invaded by yellow fever during last summer, so as to carry out a fresh disinfection of the houses. The physician will in each place give instructions to a select staff on the methods of executing this operation, show the way to drain the swamps, to fill up those which can not be drained, and to spread petroleum over bodies of water that necessarily must remain uncovered, and to see that all others are constantly covered. These operations will be carried out in Monterey and Linares.

I hope, General, that you will now be convinced of all the efforts that are being made in the Mexican Republic to stamp out yellow fever from its territory, and of the efficiency of those that are about to be put in practice during the remaining months of the winter, and I believe that you will also be convinced of our good will to carry out that work, not only on the part of the President of the Republic and secretary of the interior, but still more on the part of the superior board of health, which is charged with the execution of those orders.

I have the honor to remain, yours, very sincerely,

E. LICEAGA.

Legislation in Texas in regard to disinfection.

An Act requiring the disinfection of public buildings, railway coaches and sleeping cars, and providing a penalty for the violation thereof, and declaring an emergency.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the legislature of the State of Texas*, That it shall be the duty of the State health officer of Texas, and he is hereby authorized and empowered, to prepare rules and regulations governing the proper disinfection and sanitation of public buildings and all railway coaches and sleeping cars operated in the State of Texas.

SEC. 2. It shall be his duty, and he is hereby authorized and empowered, to prescribe a sanitary code, which shall contain and provide rules and regulations of a general nature for the improvement and amelioration of the hygienic and sanitary condition of said public buildings, railway coaches, and sleeping cars.

SEC. 3. Every person having control of any public building, railway company, sleeping car company, or other corporation, company, or individual, or the receiver thereof, engaged in the carrying of passengers in this State, shall, at their own expense, within a prescribed time after receiving notice from the State health officer of the promulgation of the rules and regulations in the above sections mentioned, carry the same into effect.

SEC. 4. If any person having control of any public building, or any agent, manager, operator, employee, or receiver of any railway company, sleeping car company, or any individual shall fail to comply with the provisions of this act and the rules and regulations promulgated by the State health officer under the provisions thereof, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty nor more than two hundred dollars.

Approved April 6, 1903.

CIRCULAR NO. 1.

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the above act of the twenty-eighth legislature, the following rules are hereby prescribed, which shall govern the disinfection and sanitation of public buildings, railway coaches, and sleeping cars in the State of Texas, and shall be effective on and after February 11, 1904:

1. Each passenger coach or sleeping car used for passengers must be provided with one cuspidor for each seat or every two chairs. Each cuspidor must contain not less than six ounces of a disinfectant solu-